

REPORT

ON

NATIVE PAPERS IN BENGAL

FOR THE

Week ending the 14th January 1905.

CONTENTS.

	Page.		Page
I.—FOREIGN POLITICS.		(g)—Railways and communications, including canals and irrigation—	
Murder of Mr. Fleischer at Dhakka ...	21	The question of taking too much luggage in passengers' compartments ...	24
The fall of Port Arthur ...	ib.	A railway complaint ...	ib.
The fall of Port Arthur ...	ib.	The grievances of native railway employés ...	ib.
The Sikhs in Manchuria ...	ib.		
Signs of a war in the North-Western frontier of India ...	ib.		
Afghan politics ...	ib.		
II.—HOME ADMINISTRATION.		(h)—General—	
(a)—Police—		Sadar town for the new district in Mymensingh ...	25
A complaint against the police ...	21	Mr. Carey, Collector of Hooghly ...	26
		Mr. Carey, Collector of Hooghly ...	27
(b)—Working of the Courts—		The proposed partition of Midnapore ...	ib.
A sentence against a dead man by the Joint Magistrate of Dinapur ...	21	Khulna topics ...	28
The Acting Chief Judge of the Calcutta Small Cause Court ...	ib.	The proposed Town Hall Conference on the partition question ...	ib.
The Cowie case ...	ib.	Rule for the appointment of Deputy and Sub-Deputy Magistrates ...	ib.
(c)—Jails—		Abolition of the competitive system ...	29
Nil.		Abolition of competitive examinations ...	ib.
(d)—Education—		III.—LEGISLATION.	
A complaint ...	22	Nil.	
The last Middle Scholarship Examination at Faridpur ...	ib.	IV.—NATIVE STATES.	
Frequent transfer of inspecting officers ...	23	Agartala affairs ...	30
Zanana education in Faridpur ...	ib.	The Raja of Kapurthala's visit to Europe ...	ib.
The Calcutta Madrassah Branch School ...	ib.		
Khulna as an Entrance Examination centre ...	ib.	V.—PROSPECTS OF THE CROPS AND CONDITION OF THE PEOPLE.	
The Ranchi College and Rai Hari Ram Goenka Bahadur ...	ib.	A complaint of water-scarcity ...	30
(e)—Local Self-Government and Municipal Administration—			
Malaria in the Faridpur district ...	23	VI.—MISCELLANEOUS.	
Neglect of sanitation in the Rangpur district ...	ib.	Lord Curzon on Lord Northbrook ...	31
The North Dum-Dum Municipality ...	24	Sir H. Cotton's address at the Indian National Congress ...	ib.
(f)—Questions affecting the land—		Sir H. Cotton's address at the Congress ...	32
Nil.		A poem in welcome of the Sirdar Inayatulla Khan ...	33
		Lord Curzon and the Congress ...	ib.
		Government titles and their significance ...	ib.
		A remarkable event of the last year ...	34
		A contrast between the Indian and Transvaal elective systems ...	ib.
		Another Darbar in Calcutta ...	ib.
		"What do Englishmen take us for?" ...	ib.

URIYA PAPERS.

Cholera in Balasore ...	35
Suggested repair of a road in Balasore ...	ib.
Tigers in the Nilgiri State ...	ib.
Cholera in Balasore town ...	ib.
Domiciled Bengalis in Orissa ...	38
Loyalty of the Indian population ...	ib.
A leper asylum at Puri ...	ib.
The minor Raja of Dhenkanal ...	ib.
Death of a popular mukhtar in Talcher ...	ib.
Industrial and Agricultural Exhibition at Angul ...	ib.
The Baghunathpur ferry ghat on the Taldanda Canal ...	ib.
The Utkal Union Conference ...	37
The proposed reform of the chaukidari system ...	ib.
Free distribution of medicine by a private gentleman ...	ib.
A social agitation in Cuttack ...	ib.
The slaughter of a cow in Puri ...	ib.

URIYA PAPERS -concl'd.

A fire ...	37
Cholera and the Chairman of the Balasore Municipality ...	ib.
An act of the Superintendent, Tributary Mahals, Orissa ...	ib.
Mr. Growse's inspection of the Athgarh State ...	ib.
Anniversary of the Utkal Union Conference and other Societies ...	ib.
The weather ...	36
The weather ...	ib.
The health of Cuttack town ...	ib.
The health of Balasore town ...	ib.

ASSAM PAPERS.

Nil.

I.—FOREIGN POLITICS.

In noticing the murder of the late Mr. Fleischer at Dhakka by the Kabul escort, the *Ghar Bandhu* [Ranchi] of the 1st January suggests that he might have been killed to prevent the secrets of Kabul from being divulged.

Ghar Bandhu,
Jan. 1st, 1905.

Murder of Mr. Fleischer at Dhakka.

2. Referring to the fall of Port Arthur, the *Daily Hitavadi* [Calcutta] of the 6th January says:—

DAILY HITAVADI,
Jan. 6th, 1905.

The fall of Port Arthur.

The Japanese have been victorious at Port Arthur. This victory is the victory of a just cause, of heroism and of patriotism. The allies of Japan are rejoicing at this victory. We, too, have been mightily pleased at it. Our joy is the greater because the shedding of blood has been stopped and a veil has fallen over the bloody field of battle. If with the fall of Port Arthur the flames of this sanguinary warfare were entirely extinguished, our joy would have been complete. This first act of this drama has just ended at Port Arthur, but the remaining acts will soon be unfolded on the plains of Mukden.

3. Referring to the fall of Port Arthur, the *Samay* [Calcutta] of the 6th January writes as follows:—

SAMAY,
Jan. 6th, 1905.

The fall of Port Arthur.

We, too, are proud of this glorious victory. We who are hated as cowards and imbeciles, are proud of this triumph of the East in its terrible struggle with the West. We heartily congratulate thee, Japan, on thy wonderful courage, thy discipline, thy iron will, and thy indomitable energy. Accept our humble homage a million times over! Thou alone hast saved the honour of the East, the down-trodden East. May ultimate victory rest with thee.

4. According to the *Pioneer*, the Punjabis who are found working in Manchuria, says the *Bharat Mitra* [Calcutta] of the 7th January, are not all Sikhs and their number is not large. So the poor Sikhs are saved the blame of settling in Manchuria.

BHARAT MITRA,
Jan. 7th, 1905.

The Sikhs in Manchuria.

5. Seeing that the Government of India intends despatching an army to Colonel Deane, Commissioner of the North-Western Frontier, the *Hindi Bangavasi* [Calcutta] of the 9th January is alarmed at the prospect of a war at the frontier.

HINDI BANGAVASI,
Jan. 9th, 1905.

Signs of a war in the North-Western frontier of India.

6. The *Roznama-i-Mukaddas Hablul Mateen* [Calcutta] of the 9th January says that the fear of the majority of the Press of Europe regarding the mutual relation of the Govern-

ROZNAMA-I-MUKADDAS
HABUL MATEEN,
Jan. 9th, 1905.

Afghan politics.

ment of India and that of Afghanistan seems to have no foundation at all. There is ample evidence to show that each country is anxious to help the other in its emergency. If there was any difference before, a face-to-face meeting has removed it.

II.—HOME ADMINISTRATION.

(a)—Police.

7. The *Manbhum* [Purulia] of the 27th December draws attention to the oppressive conduct of the local thana police in compelling women when they happen to pass by the thana, to part with the vegetables which they carry for sale in the local Nalitala bazar, at less than the proper price.

MANBHUM,
Dec. 27th, 1904.

A complaint against the police.

(b)—Working of the Courts.

8. The *Bharat Mitra* [Calcutta] of the 7th January notices the case in which an appeal has been instituted in the High Court on the 3rd instant against the decision of Mr. Reid, the Joint Magistrate of Dinapur, who fined one of the accused after his death was reported to the Court.

BHARAT MITRA,
Jan. 7th, 1905.

A sentence against a dead man by the Joint Magistrate of Dinapur.

DAILY HITAVADI,
Jan. 10th, 1905.

9. The *Daily Hitavadi* [Calcutta] of the 10th January complains that the conduct of the present Acting Chief Judge of the Calcutta Small Cause Court is not all that can be desired. It is said that his treatment of the

The Acting Chief Judge of the
Calcutta Small Cause Court.

parties to suits and their pleaders is not at all satisfactory. This is what may be expected from one who once so far forgot himself as to behave rudely towards a menial to whom he was in the end obliged to apologise. He is now engaged in reorganising the Calcutta Small Cause Court according to his own sweet will. Long-established practices are being lightly set at naught, and his Chief Clerk, whose character is well known, is loyally carrying out his orders, which are carefully concealed from the public gaze.

DAILY HITAVADI,
Jan. 11th, 1905.

10. Referring to the conviction of Mr. Cowie by the Chief Justice, the *Daily Hitavadi* [Calcutta] of the 11th January

The Cowie case.

observes that the sentence of six years' rigorous imprisonment passed upon the accused fully meets the demands of justice. There have been more instances than one in which the European jury has refused to convict a European criminal. Nobody ever expected that a man of Mr. Cowie's position would be found guilty in an Indian Court of justice. It is to be hoped that the result of this case will have a salutary effect upon Anglo-Indian Judges by inducing them to follow the noble example set by the Chief Justice.

(d)—Education.

PRATINIDHI,
Dec. 21st, 1904.

11. Writing to the *Pratinidhi* [Comilla] of the 21st December, a correspondent draws attention to the excessive dilatoriness which characterised the arrangements in

A complaint.

connection with the Middle English and Middle Vernacular Scholarship Examinations at the Comilla centre this year. It is alleged that on every day of the examination there was a delay in issuing the question papers to the examinees ranging from ten minutes to half-an-hour; further, that on two days the examination was continued up to the late hour of 8 and 8-30 P.M., respectively.

DACCA PRAKAS,
Jna. 8th, 1905.

12. Referring to the last Middle Scholarship Examination held at Faridpur, a correspondent of the *Dacca Prakas* [Dacca] of the 8th January writes:—

The last Middle Scholarship
Examination at Faridpur.

The examination, which was conducted by the Head Master of the Zilla School, began at 10-30 A.M. and ended at 7 P.M., the time required being full 8½ hours. The first book of Euclid and a certain portion of Practical Geometry had been fixed as alternative courses, and yet the candidates, some of whom had studied Euclid and others Practical Geometry, were examined in both these subjects, and all objections were disregarded. The subjects for oral examination on the first day were four and there were altogether 30 candidates. It thus appears that on an average 17 minutes were allowed to each candidate, so that about 4½ minutes could be given to each of the subjects examined! Those who were fortunate enough to be called out for examination at the commencement had naturally more time given them than those who were examined later. Can it be said that equal opportunities were given to all candidates? When it is remembered that the candidates were all little boys from villages, to whom the examination hall is a dread place, the miserable plight in which they were placed can well be imagined.

The next day was the last day of the examination. The number of subjects for examination on this day was 8. The examination was conducted with lightning speed. The questions were dictated to the candidates and the answer-papers were examined and marks allotted then and there. The boys had no time even to go out for a few minutes for tiffin. As the marks were to be sent to the Inspector on that day, about 200 answer-papers returned by 30 candidates were examined in a few hours, and the merits of the boys ascertained in that brief space of time. What a nice arrangement? May not this be fitly termed a massacre of the innocents?

The sadar station having been made the centre of the Middle Scholarship Examination, the mufassal boys had to undergo the greatest inconveniences imaginable. One of the boys had to spend not less than Rs. 15 for his expenses. Yet it is maintained that this scholarship examination is meant for poor students!

Is this the sort of examination which can test the merits of the candidates?
Is it an examination or a farce?

13. The *Shiksha* [Bankipur] of the 22nd December is sorry that Babu Kali Pado Sarkar, Deputy Inspector of Schools, who was recently transferred from Chapra to Patna, is being again transferred to Bhagalpur. The paper is against such transfers, but is consoled because of the "exchange" between him and the Deputy Inspector of Bhagalpur by mutual consent.

SHIKSHA,
Dec. 22nd, 1904.

14. The *Faridpur Hitaishini* [Faridpur] of the 30th December is sorry that no arrangements have yet been made for the instruction of *parda* ladies in Faridpur. This is believed to be due to the apathy of the local educational officers. It is not a fact that a competent lady teacher is not available in Faridpur. It is to be hoped that the authorities will take steps for providing *zanana* education in the town.

FARIDPUR
HITAISHINI,
Dec. 30th, 1904.

15. The *Mihir-o-Sudhakar* [Calcutta] of the 6th January draws attention to the unsuitability of the present location of the Calcutta Madrassah Branch School at Goaltuli in the northern part of the town. It is pointed out that the inhabitants of this quarter consist almost wholly of Hindu *goalas*, with an almost entire absence of the Musalman element. Further, the entire locality is in a highly insanitary condition. The whole atmosphere of the place reeks with the smell of cow-dung and urine. During the rains, this smell becomes at times so offensive that it is necessary to close the doors and windows of the school-rooms before the teachers and scholars can sit down to teach and to be taught. And, finally, the paucity of the Musalman population in the quarter acts prejudicially on the number of students on the school rolls.

MIHIR-O-SUDHAKAR,
Jan. 6th, 1905.

16. The *Khulnavasi* [Khulna] of the 7th January urges the claims of Khulna to be made a centre for holding the University Entrance Examination. It is pointed out that about 300 examinees appear every year at the Entrance Examination from the various Entrance schools in the Jessore and Khulna districts. At present the centres at which they have to appear are practically confined to Barsial and Calcutta. Now, at Barsial there is no good house accommodation of a temporary nature available. And as to Calcutta, it is a highly expensive place, and, besides, its numerous distractions often prevent an examinee from giving the close attention to his studies that he should when his examination is at hand. Khulna is free from both these disadvantages. Besides, it possesses an advantage over both these centres in being more easily accessible from the homes of the students. And, finally, at Khulna there is no risk of the numerous epidemics which rage in Calcutta every year at the season when the examinations are held.

KHULNAVASI,
Jan. 7th, 1905.

17. The *Bharat Mitra* [Calcutta] of the 7th January is surprised to see the name of Rai Hari Ram Goenka Bahadur on the Committee appointed to collect subscriptions for the Ranchi College, when the Visudhananda Vidyalaya, a school started by his own community, is suffering for want of funds. This action of his is compared to that of a man who, leaving his own house dark, goes to light a lamp in the mosque. The paper assures the Rai Bahadur that the Ranchi College would do without him, whereas his own school would not, so he should first raise money for his own school.

BHARAT MITRA,
Jan. 7th, 1905.

(c)—Local Self-Government and Municipal Administration.

18. The *Faridpur Hitaishini* [Faridpur] of the 30th December says that severe malarial fever prevails in the Baliakandi, Pangsa, Kotwali and Bhushna thanas in the Faridpur district, and that many deaths are reported. Cholera is making great havoc at Bhanga.

FARIDPUR
HITAISHINI,
Dec. 30th, 1905.

19. The *Sanjivani* [Calcutta] of the 5th January writes that the District Board of Rangpur is directing all its energy towards road-making, but pays no heed to the widespread havoc caused by malaria and small-pox.

SANJIVANI,
Jan. 5th, 1904.

Lalchandpore, Khaleya and other villages in the Kotwali thana are suffering badly from small-pox. It appears from the report of the Divisional Commissioner that "no important works of sanitation were undertaken beyond digging masonry wells," and again "in Rangpur a greater number of special repair works and the construction of new feeder roads were undertaken during the year." These facts point to the conclusion that the number of roads in Rangpur is already more than sufficient, and that the District Board should now devote its attention entirely to sanitation, which has been so sadly neglected. The old tanks, *beels* and other reservoirs of water in the mufassal should be thoroughly cleansed. The affairs of the District Board are grossly mismanaged and its funds are misspent, but the Divisional Commissioner's report takes no notice of these facts. The attention of Government is drawn to the matter.

DAILY HITAVADI,
Jan. 9th, 1905.

20. In continuation of the letter published in a previous issue [Report on Native Papers in Bengal for the 24th December 1904, paragraph 29], the *Daily Hitavadi* [Calcutta] of the 9th January publishes the following from some correspondents:—

The roads and drains within the North Dum-Dum Municipality are all in a sadly neglected condition. The sufferings of the people caused by malaria are indescribable. Babu Jadunath Ray Chaudhuri who has been Chairman for the last five years, pays no heed to sufferings and the inconvenience of the rate-payers. When any complaint is made to the District Magistrate he simply calls for an explanation from the Chairman and then decides the question *ex parte*. The correspondents suggest that Government should depute a competent officer to enquire into the actual state of things, and they undertake to render every assistance to that officer in making the enquiry. The following are the signatories to the above letter: Babus Annada Prasad Chatterji, Jogindra Nath Chatterji, Kumnd Kanta Ray Chaudhuri, Brajanath Banerji, Sarat Chandra Banerji, Brajendra Nath Mukerji, and Nilmani Mukerji, all of Nimta, 24-Parganas.

(g)—*Railways and communications, including canals and irrigation.*

DAILY HITAVADI,
Jan. 8th, 1905.

21. Attention has recently been drawn, writes the *Daily Hitavadi* [Calcutta] of the 8th January, by some European railway passengers to the inconvenience caused by too much luggage being taken into passengers' compartments. The inconvenience complained of

is real, and is due to the general misconception among passengers that luggage allowed free may be carried along with them in their compartments. In Europe railway passengers carry only small hand-bags with them, all their luggage being put into the guard's van. They have no difficulty in getting their luggage all safe at destination. But in India a different state of things prevails. Here passengers' luggage in the guard's van is frequently tampered with. So long as the safety of luggage in the guard's van is not guaranteed, passengers will never consent to entrust it with the guard. Before orders are passed prohibiting passengers from taking along with them too much luggage, except what may conveniently be carried under the benches, satisfactory arrangements should be made to prevent thefts from the guard's van. It should also be noted that railway officers take no notice of complaints made to them by passengers when the latter are inconvenienced by too much luggage in their compartments.

NIMAR,
Jan. 10th, 1905.

22. The *Nihar* [Contai] of the 10th January draws attention to the inconvenience caused to the local travelling public by the absence of proper waiting accommodation for females at Contai Road station on the Bengal-Nagpur Railway.

DAILY HITAVADI,
Jan. 11th, 1905.

23. The *Daily Hitavadi* [Calcutta] of the 11th January is sanguine that the Railway Board may do some good to the Indians, inasmuch as a native member, namely, Babu Nalinvehari Sarkar, has been appointed one of the members of the Board.

Both native employes of the railway and native passengers receive a great deal of ill-treatment at the hands of the railway authorities. An invidious

distinction is very often made between native employés on the one hand and European and Eurasian railway officers on the other in the matter of accommodation and quarters. The rooms intended for native employés are generally no better than hovels for coolies and khalasis. The quarters for native ticket-collectors, most of whom are well-educated and come of respectable families, recently built at Lilocah, answer to this description. The ground is swampy and remains under water for about four months in the year, and the floors of the rooms are on a slightly higher level. It is almost impossible for native gentlemen to live in such quarters. The accommodation afforded is miserably insufficient. The quarters for European or Eurasian officers are, on the contrary, not only perfectly healthy and comfortable, but contain more rooms than are required. They receive higher salaries and are in every way far better treated than natives. What justification is there for such inequality of treatment?

As an inevitable consequence of insanitary surroundings, native employés frequently fall ill, but still they are seldom allowed leave. That is why one often hears that an accident has happened owing to the neglect of a native station-master or signaller who is ill. It is to be hoped that all these facts will attract the attention of the Board.

(h)—General.

24. Writing on the question of the selection of a suitable sadar town for the new district which it is proposed to create out

Sadar town for the new district in Mymensingh.

of the Tangail and Jamalpur subdivisions of Mymensingh [noticed in paragraph 37 of the Report on Native Papers in Bengal for the week ending the 24th December 1904], a correspondent of the *Charu Mihir* [Mymensingh] of the 3rd January expresses approval of the preference shown by Government for some site between Gopalpur and Madhupur, as is indicated in its recent reply to a question in the Legislative Council. In view of this expression of opinion from Government, attention is drawn to the claims of the following sites, which are all situated between Gopalpur and Madhupur:—

CHARU MIHIR,
Jan. 3rd, 1905.

- (1) The town of Madhupur is situated on the Bansa. To the south of this town, and stretching westward from the bridge, which is over the Bansa near this place, is a large area of elevated land, which would prove an excellent site for the new sadar town. It is free from malaria, and also from all risk from the *gajari* flower; for the season for the *gajari* flower is the month of *Baisakh*, when the wind blows from the west and south, and can therefore mean no danger to a place situated to the south of Madhupur.
- (2) The Khilgathi plain to the south of the same town would be also another excellent choice, but it has the disadvantage of not being situated near any river.
- (3) A third choice which might be made is that of Para Banga village in Alamnagar town, three miles to the south of Gopalpur. This site is bounded on two sides by a river. Its only objectionable feature is that parts of it are liable to inundation during the rains.

Another correspondent of the same paper urges the claims of Jamalpur as the best choice. It is pointed out that—

- (1) The present situation of Jamalpur town is such that while its distance southwards to the borders of the Tangail subdivision is only 14 or 15 miles, its distance to the northern, north-western and north-eastern extremities of the Jamalpur subdivision are, respectively, 36, 40 and 48 miles. The location of the sadar town at Gopalpur would heighten the existing discrepancy by increasing the distance of the sadar station from the northern extremities of Jamalpur to some 70 or 74 miles.
- (2) There is the further consideration that Gopalpur is without the advantages of railway and steamer communication which Jamalpur enjoys.

- (3) Government already possesses some five or six hundred bighas of land at Jamalpur, which were acquired in the days when Jamalpur was a cantonment. The new buildings for district offices, etc., could be built on this land. This would mean a great saving of expense in the case of Jamalpur as against any other site. The land included in the jurisdiction of Gopalpur thana is low-lying and liable to be inundated during the rains.
- (4) Madhupur is overgrown with unhealthy jungles.
- (5) It is not true that Jamalpur is the home of pox and cholera. About ten years ago there was an outbreak of cholera epidemic at this town in connexion with a large assemblage of pilgrims on the occasion of the *Ardhodayay yog*. During the last thirty years there has been only one case of death from pox in the town. There are in truth few towns in East Bengal as healthy as Jamalpur.
- (6) Jamalpur possesses the advantage of being situated on the Brahmaputra river.

SRI SRI VISHNU
PRIYA-O-ANANDA
BAZAR PATRIKA,
Jan. 4th, 1905.

25. The *Sri Sri Vishnu Priya-o-Ananda Bazar Patrika* [Calcutta] of the 4th January writes:—

Mr. Carey, Collector of Hooghly. There is to be no end to Mr. Carey's notorious doings. The list of acts of notoriety perpetrated by him is swelling with the same regularity with which day succeeds night. Wherever he goes, reports come of some strange new prank of which he has been guilty. The latest is in connection with a meeting which was held at Chinsura on the 4th January last under the presidency of the Divisional Commissioner to collect subscriptions in aid of the Lady Dufferin Fund. In reference to this meeting Mr. Carey issued a notice of invitation to the local gentry, in the course of which the following passages occur:—

"I hear it often alleged that natives of this country never make any disinterested gift for the public welfare, but are always actuated by considerations of their own luxury, or by a desire to gain credit in the eyes of Government. I hope that the gentry of Hooghly district will muster strong at this meeting to give the lie to this allegation."

We are really surprised to see that Mr. Carey lacks the amount of education necessary to write out a notice properly. What was Mr. Carey's object in this case? He wished to invite the local wealthy zamindars to attend his meeting and to subscribe to the Lady Dufferin Fund. But should an invitation letter have been couched in the form adopted by Mr. Carey on this occasion? Who has taught him this peculiar lesson of politeness? Not to talk of politeness, the selfish desire to gain his immediate object should have dictated to him a different line of conduct. We do not know how many men of self-respect attended his meeting after receiving this style of invitation. But we are sure that most of those invited felt insulted by the form of invitation adopted. What is Mr. Carey's status that the native gentry of Bengal should care to accept his invitation simply to prove that they can make disinterested gifts? Mr. Carey may be a high official, but personally many of those invited occupy a much higher station in society than he does. What earthly inducement can they possibly have to go to Mr. Carey and prove to him the disinterestedness of their public benefactions? If Mr. Carey had the least regard for the honour of native gentlemen he could never have issued such a notice.

The post of a District Magistrate in Bengal is a highly responsible one. Mr. Carey has lowered the dignity of his high official position in such a serious way that if there were any one at the head of affairs to take account of his doings he would long since have ceased to disgrace his office. The natives of India have arrived at the last stage of moral degradation. Therefore it is that even civilians of the position of Mr. Carey can, when inviting respectable men to public meetings, use insulting language of this sort, and thereby make an exhibition of their pride of office. In truth, every time we think of the language of this invitation, a feeling of deep insult arises in our breasts. Is it a small matter that Mr. Carey should not have an idea of the elementary rules of good-breeding, and yet should be entrusted with absolute power over the lives, honour and property of lakhs of human beings? It passes our comprehension to understand why Government still retains this man in judicial and executive work. We trust the Hooghly public, and specially those invited, will bring their case to the

notice of Government. The Lieutenant-Governor is old both in age and wisdom, and we have therefore every hope that he will understand the improper and insulting nature of the notice, and take prompt steps to teach Mr. Carey better manners in the future.

So much for the manner of the invitation. As regards the object, it was, as we said before, to raise subscriptions in aid of the Lady Dufferin Fund. But the native public have very little sympathy with this fund. Many people believe that the principal object of this fund has gradually come to be to provide berths for a number of European ladies. How can disinterestedness be proved by contributions to such a fund? And, further, even if it be conceded that this fund does deserve support from the public, one can well imagine how far an invitation like that issued by Mr. Carey is best suited to gain its ends in this direction.

26. The *Hitavadi* [Calcutta] of the 6th January writes:—

HITAVADI.
Jan. 6th, 1904.

Mr. Carey, Collector of Hooghly.

The list of Mr. Carey's acts of notoriety is really getting to be interminable. He has recently stopped the issue of all gun-licenses. And what is the reason he gives for his conduct? It is that the police force in the district of Hooghly is numerically very small. And that if all those who have already been granted licenses attempt a breach of the peace at one and the same time, it would then become impossible for the police, with their present inferiority in strength, to cope with the danger. Therefore he has come to the decision to grant no further licenses. It is evidently Mr. Carey's impression that those who take out gun-licenses will, on the least provocation, attempt a fight with the police. Is not this a case of perversion of sense, enough to drive a man to despair? People apply for gun-licenses in order to be better able to protect themselves from thieves and dacoits. Instead of inquiring into the truth of such and other claims, this Magistrate has made up his mind not to issue any further licenses on any ground whatsoever. Is there nobody at the head of affairs to bring this man to his senses?

So many complaints have already been made against this Mr. Carey and yet he does not appear any nearer reformation. We understand that two respectable gentlemen had occasion recently to go to the Land Acquisition Office at Hooghly. When they were crossing the northern verandah of the kutchery-house fronting Mr. Carey's room, they were arrested by a chaprassie and brought before Mr. Carey. Mr. Carey rebuked them in rough language, and placing them in the custody of a constable, made them sit before his own court-room all the time from 1 to 5 P.M. This is an instance of his behaviour with the public. As regards his treatment of the amla of his Court, it is really amazing. During his term of office, he has compelled the sheristadar and peshkar of the Collectorate, the head accountant of the treasury, the khas mahal head clerk, the head clerk of the Criminal Department, a subordinate clerk of the Khas Mahal Department, and the peshkar of the Criminal Department to retire from the service prematurely. None of these officers was a new man, all were men of tried ability. And yet Mr. Carey coolly charged them with incompetence, and got rid of them. We repeat the question has he really no superior officer who will take account of these whimsical acts of his?

27. Continuing the subject of the proposed partition of Midnapore

MEDINI BANDHAV,
Jan. 4th, 1905.

The proposed partition of Midnapore.

[see Report on Native Papers in Bengal for the week ending the 24th December 1904, paragraph 9], the *Medini Bandhav* [Midnapore] of the 4th January observes that though it might be admitted that the work of the District Magistrate has undergone an increase in late years, it may at the same time be pointed out that the improvement of communications which has taken place in the district during the same period has greatly facilitated his work of inspection, and may therefore be regarded as having had the effect of really lightening his burden of work. If necessary, further improvements of communication might be effected still to add still more to the Magistrate's convenience. Then as regards the question of expense, it has been estimated that the construction of the necessary new buildings at Contai, including court-house, jail, and improved hospital, would cost about two lakhs. Add to these another lakh as charges for new office furniture and the temporary establishment which must be kept up to effect the necessary separation of the

district records. The whole would thus mount up to something like three lakhs. Then, again, the salaries of the new District Officer, District Superintendent of Police, Civil Surgeon, etc., would come up in the least to six thousand rupees per month or seventy or eighty thousand rupees a year. This latter would, of course, be a recurring charge. It may be pointed out that all this money would be better and more usefully spent by being applied to the construction of certain necessary works of drainage improvement in the low-lying parts of the district, where, for want of such works, both the crops and the public health suffer at present.

SANJIVANI,
Jan. 5th, 1905.

28. The Khulna correspondent of the *Sanjivani* [Calcutta] of the 5th January speaks highly of Mr. Ahmed, the District Magistrate, for the interest he takes in local

Khulna topics.

matters. Recently he visited the Senhati village and examined the chaukidari assessment. But the Subordinate Magistrates in the sadar town do not seem to attract his attention. The conduct of the senior Deputy Magistrate, Babu Jnanendra Nath Pal, is no doubt such as to cause a decrease in the number of criminal cases, but this is certainly increasing lawlessness in Khulna. Prosecutions under section 107 of the Code of Criminal Procedure are not at all taken seriously by him. The matter deserves the careful attention of the District Magistrate.

It is deeply to be regretted that the District Magistrate has permitted the surplus money of the Agricultural and Industrial Exhibition Fund to be spent on the local theatre. It is particularly objectionable to introduce theatrical exhibitions, in which disreputable women take part, into mufassal towns. The money ought to have been devoted to some work of public utility.

Mr. R. C. Gupta, another Deputy Magistrate of Khulna, is making assessments of the income-tax most arbitrarily. Government should take early notice of his doings.

SANJIVANI.

29. The same paper says that it was decided by the Bengali delegates to the last Bombay Congress, headed by Babu Baikuntha Nath Sen of Berhampur, that a Conference should be held in the Calcutta Town Hall on the partition question on the 10th January. Accordingly, delegates from East, West and North Bengal will attend the Conference.

The 10th of January is not a Government holiday, and yet that day has been fixed for the meeting of the delegates. That the Bengalis can sacrifice all their private interests to save the life of their mother country will be shown on this occasion. It will be shewn and unmistakeably that the anxiety caused by the proposed division of the Bengali race is so great and the conviction of impending ruin so strong that the heart of the nation has been stirred to its innermost depths. The zamindar, the pleader and the poor raiyat from every district will come down to Calcutta to join the Conference at considerable loss and inconvenience to themselves, for a grave peril threatens to overwhelm them at no distant date. Many a disaster has befallen Bengal before this, but none has been so serious as the present one. The extinction of the national life of Bengal is at hand, and the dismay and disquietude is great.

SANJIVANI.

30. The rules for the appointment of Deputy and Sub-Deputy Magistrates, writes the same paper, as published in the *Calcutta Gazette*, lay down in effect that appointments in the Provincial and Subordinate Executive Service will in future be made, not according to the merits of the candidates, but according to the divisions to which they may belong. Under the rules many persons, who could never have expected to be Deputy Magistrates in their lives, will become such simply because they happened to be born in particular parts of the country. There can be no question that by this arrangement many incompetent men will enter the service of Government. It will not be long before Government will come to rue the principles which it has so unwisely laid down.

Another fatal principle which Government has adopted is that in making an appointment to a Deputy Magistrateship it is to enquire whether the father of the candidate was a Government servant or not. A class of

hereditary nobles was created from among the higher officers of the State on the eve of the downfall of the Roman Empire who monopolised all the appointments in the public service and grossly abused their powers. The English Government also proposes to enquire whether the father of the applicant for a Deputy Magistrateship was in the service of Government!

There is still another fatal principle which has been introduced. If any person does not possess a respectable position in society, he can never aspire to a Deputy Magistrateship. If this principle had been in operation when Jesus was born, he would surely have been looked down upon as the son of a carpenter and would have been grovelling in the lowest depths of society. Many persons who are washermen or barbers by caste have received higher education. Are they to be never appointed as Deputy Magistrates by reason of the accident of their birth? Does Government intend to tighten the shackles of caste in this country? Here is the spectacle of a Christian Government professing equality of treatment advocating in-equality. It is because Government is infusing a new spirit into the lower classes of this country that it is believed to be established by the will of Providence. Does Government now propose to oppose the Divine dispensation?

31. Referring to the Resolution on the recruitment of the Executive Branch of the Provincial Civil Service and the Subordinate Civil Service, published in the *Calcutta Gazette* of the 28th December 1904, the *Hitavadi*

Abolition of the competitive system.

HITAVADI,
Jan. 6th, 1905.

[Calcutta] of the 6th January writes:—

In the course of this Resolution, Sir A. Fraser has stated that the proposal regarding the abolition of the competitive system did not originate with him, but that the late Sir John Woodburn, some time before his death, pointed out to the Supreme Government the evil results of that system. It is well known, however, that during Sir J. Woodburn's period of illness, it was Mr. Buckland who really carried on the government. So our impression is that it was Mr. Buckland who wrote that letter against the competitive system in the name of the Bengal Government. And that it is Mr. Buckland's letter which is now being placed before the public by Sir A. Fraser as Sir John Woodburn's.

Let that pass, however. When Government has determined on the abolition of the competitive system, we do not think its resolution is likely to be changed by any criticisms that we might offer. But may we ask Sir Andrew his reasons for entering into this long-drawn explanation of his policy? If Government is disappointed with the results of the competitive system, no matter on what grounds, it would have been enough for it simply to have abolished it and re-introduced the nomination system. Where was the harm in retaining the power to make all the nominations singly in the hands of the Lieutenant-Governor? The competitive system recognised merit. If that system is to be done away with, what is the use of the farce of a selection by Commissioners, the University Syndicate, the Board of Revenue, &c.? His Honour professes that in making the selections, regard will be paid to University qualifications. But in practice it appears that the victory has hitherto rested with those who were supported by influence and recommendation. Such being the facts, would it not have been better for the dignity of the Government to have refrained from this attempt to deceive the public by worthless statements?

32. The *Daily Hitavadi* [Calcutta] of the 6th January writes:—

Abolition of competitive examinations.

Whatever may be said of the part His Honour the Lieutenant-Governor took, or is supposed to have taken, in such measures as the Official Secrets Act and the proposed partition of Bengal, there is no doubt that he has shewn the greatest possible narrow-mindedness by supporting the abolition of competitive examinations and the substitution in their place of the system of nomination. The Resolution which Sir Andrew Fraser has recorded on the subject must be considered to have been dictated by a most ungenerous policy when compared with the Resolution of Sir Stuart Bayley's Government making all classes, whether Hindus, Muhammadans or Christians, equally eligible for appointment in the public service, provided they shewed the requisite standard of proficiency. Under the new system a highly-educated man, who has none to recommend him, can have no chance of obtaining Government

DAILY HITAVADI,
Jan. 6th, 1905.

service, while others, far inferior to him in ability, who can contrive to win the good graces of a Divisional Commissioner, may succeed in securing appointments under Government. What can be a nicer arrangement than this? Moreover, thanks to the system introduced by Sir Andrew Fraser, the people of Bengal will have no chance of getting appointments in Bihar or Orissa, nor will the people of one Division obtain appointments in another Division. The Divisional Commissioner will make his selection from among those who will be recommended by the Collector, and the result must be that incompetent persons will manage to enter Government service. Nobody ever objected to the system of competition which was so long in operation, nor did Government assign any reason against its continuance. It has now been abolished without rhyme or reason. What can be more regrettable than this?

Now that orders for the abolition of competitive examinations have already been passed, protests are not only useless but may displease His Honour and Lord Curzon. We know all this, but how can we approve of Government's action? The *Englishman* is quite right when it says that the system of nomination can never be popular. Although His Honour has sought to mitigate, to some extent, the evils inseparable from the nomination system by granting to the Divisional Commissioner, the Syndicate of the Calcutta University, the Board of Revenue and other authorities the power of nominating several candidates, and thereby to make it popular, yet there is little hope of this attempt being successful.

The revolution in education, this unjust system of nomination and the proposal to partition Bengal, all these have at once been thrust upon the Bengalis. How then can they remain silent? Sir Henry Cotton was quite right when he said in his presidential speech in the last Bombay Congress that the Bengalis dominated public opinion from Peshawar to Chittagong. It is needless to say that such is also the conviction of the authorities themselves, although they may not choose to say so. It is undeniable that the Bengalis are the foremost people in all India in education, intelligence and statesmanship. Is it the intention of the authorities to destroy this superiority of the Bengalis?

IV.—NATIVE STATES.

PRATINIDHI,
Dec. 14th, 1904.

33. The *Pratinidhi* [Comilla] of the 14th December says that when nine years ago Maharaja Radhakisore Manikya was installed on the *guddi*, hopes were entertained that

Agartala affairs.

he would introduce reforms in all the departments of his State. But now unworthy favourites have obtained ascendancy over him and reduced him to a mere puppet in their hands. The Maharaja is immersed in pleasures and the revenues of the State are being squandered away. No attempt is being made for an increase of the income, or for the introduction of education among the savage tribes. Party quarrels brought about the ruin of the newly-established college, which was not affiliated to the Calcutta University. When the second grade college was in a tottering condition, it was foolishly raised to the status of a first grade college and a huge sum of money was wasted over the project. The college had its origin in party quarrels and its collapse was due to the same cause. Yet Sir Andrew Fraser was blamed for no fault of his own.

Incompetent and inexperienced officers have been appointed to carry on the administration of justice, and jobberies are not unknown. The Minister has not shewn wise discrimination in selecting the best officers.

BHARAT MITRA,
Jan. 7th, 1905.

34. With reference to the journey to Europe which the Raja of Kapurthala intends undertaking in March next, with the object of recruiting his health as well as of making some suitable arrangements for the education of his children, the *Bharat Mitra* [Calcutta] of the 7th January says: some of the Indian princes have become subject to a malady which even the Almighty could not cure. Yea, but the British Government could, if it would.

The Raja of Kapurthala's visit to Europe.

V.—PROSPECTS OF THE CROPS AND CONDITION OF THE PEOPLE.

BANGAVASI,
Jan. 7th, 1905.

35. A correspondent of the *Bangavasi* [Calcutta] of the 7th January complains of water-scarcity in the villages of Sibloon, Ambalgram, Khandagram, Gomai, Ketukgram, Purulia, Kopa, Taral, Senpara, Baloon, etc., in the Katwa subdivision

A complaint of water-scarcity.

of the district of Burdwan. It is pointed out that the repeated failures of the local crops for the last five or six years has been due to this cause, and it is suggested that a remedy might be found in the erection of *pucca bunds* across the local Kandar *khal*, so as to allow of the flood water in the *khal* during the rainy season being dammed up and thereafter diverted for irrigation purposes.

VI.—MISCELLANEOUS.

36. Commenting on the reference to the death of Lord Northbrook made by Lord Curzon in a late sitting of the Supreme Legislative Council, the *Sri Sri Vishnu Priya-o-Ananda Basar Patrika* [Calcutta] of the 4th January writes:—

SRI SRI VISHNU
PRIYA-O-ANANDA
BASAR PATRIKA,
Jan. 4th, 1905.

Lord Northbrook was really deserving of the gratitude of the Indian people. But Lord Ripon's name also will be written for all time in letters of gold in their grateful hearts. Lord Curzon should have mentioned his name in connection with Lord Northbrook's in his speech. Why does not Lord Curzon himself tread in the footsteps of these two illustrious men and thereby earn the love of the Indian public? We confess we do not quite follow His Excellency when he claims that all the main acts of his Indian administration met with the approval of Lord Northbrook. Lord Curzon is now creating alarm in the minds of the Indian public by reversing a policy, the very adoption of which was Lord Northbrook's title to fame in the eyes of our countrymen. So, how could Lord Northbrook possibly approve of Lord Curzon's policy? We were under the impression that Lord Northbrook remained a friend of the Indian people to the day of his death. But is it possible that a statesman who supports Lord Curzon's system of Government can be regarded as a friend of India? In reading the speech, the opening passages certainly seem refreshing. But a perusal of the concluding sentences is apt to give one the idea of a vessel, full of poison, with only a layer of nectar near the mouth. We wish we had not heard this eulogy of Lord Northbrook by Lord Curzon. To say that Lord Northbrook was a supporter of Lord Curzon's policy is exactly the same thing as to say that approaching death deprived Lord Northbrook of his judgment. Lord Curzon, while he proclaims Lord Northbrook as one of the best friends India ever had, at the same time makes him sing the praise of his own unpopular administration. For, retaining feelings of real friendliness for the Indian people and according a support to Lord Curzon's policy are things so inconsistent with each other that they cannot possibly co-exist in the same breast.

37. Referring to Sir H. Cotton's presidential address at the late sitting of the Indian National Congress, the same paper writes:—

SRI SRI VISHNU
PRIYA-O-ANANDA
BASAR PATRIKA

Sir H. Cotton's address at the Indian National Congress. The speech was characterised by reason and moderation. We quite agree with what Sir H. Cotton has said about Magistrates. He speaks from personal long experience of the numerous shortcomings of this class of officers. That the powers with which youthful Magistrates are armed in this country are frequently misused is a fact which Sir H. Cotton has already emphasised in his *New India*. His utterances about the Tibet Mission also express favourite sentiments of his. As regards the prophecy he has made about the future form of government for India, however agreeable and soothing it may be to put faith in it, we cannot regard with much hope any prospect of its practical realisation. In their treatment of Indian questions, Liberals and Conservatives stand on much the same plane. The low condition into which Parliament has sunk at the present time has been already depicted by Mr. Frederic Harrison in a late number of the *Positivist Review*. Sir Henry Cotton himself referred to this matter in his recent lecture before the Church Conference. We seriously doubt if there is any prospect of any early emancipation of Parliament from the moral ills from which it is now suffering. In truth it is now only the sympathy of one or two individual members of Parliament rather than that of the general body that we now receive. Any expectation of getting the smallest amount of sympathy from the rest of the members appears under

the existing circumstances to be a wild delusion. May God bless Sir H. Cotton and other noble-hearted English friends of India like him. The smallest grain of sympathy even from an individual Englishman of influence will prove of the greatest use to us. We are grateful to our Cottons and our Wedderburns, and we take this opportunity of publicly rendering our most heart-felt acknowledgments to them.

BANGAVASI,
Jan. 7th, 1905.

38. Referring to Sir Henry Cotton's recent presidential address at the Indian National Congress, the *Bangavasi* [Calcutta]

Sir H. Cotton's address at the Congress.

of the 7th January writes:—

Sir Henry's speech has created a living picture of a "liberated India" in the minds of ardent congressists. His ideal of the future is an India united with England by exactly the same ties as those which now bind England with her colonies. The same treatment and the same system of government and laws, and this, in spite of the diversity of creeds and races which prevails in India. However elated congressmen may be at this prospect, we confess that personally we can regard it as nothing better than a dream. Every sensible man who is unbiased by prepossessions must admit that Sir Henry Cotton has indulged in building "castles in the air." Considering Sir Henry's antecedents, it may be conceded that there was nothing unnatural or unexpected in this line of thought. For he was educated in a country which is the very home of liberty. His ideas are English, pure and undefiled. English systems of government, of politics, and of society have been instilled into his heart from childhood. Further, with this prepossession in favour of English institutions, he combines a strong and natural love for the people of India—a love of which he has given actual proofs in the course of his long period of service in this country, so there is nothing to be surprised at, if out of the natural goodness of his heart he should prophesy a day when India would enjoy liberty such as is enjoyed by England. But on a little careful consideration of all the facts of the case, one is apt to regard Sir Henry Cotton's prophecy with a smile. Even ardent Congress men themselves cannot fail to regard this speech as a mad man's utterance, if only they think a little. It may be granted that Sir Henry Cotton gained some experience of this country in the course of his official career. And as a result of this experience, he may claim to have acquired a knowledge of the inmost feelings and aspirations of the people and of the circumstances of their family life. But who were the persons who supplied him with this knowledge, if not Congress people themselves? So it is no wonder that he should speak as he has done!

Need we say why we call you, Congress men, mistaken? You believe that Sir Henry's prophecy would one day come true. But, brethren, how little has been hitherto achieved in the direction of the full realisation of this prophecy either through your own exertions or otherwise? We know what has been accomplished and also what remains to be accomplished. Sir Henry Cotton has placed before you a picture of self-government on a large and grand scale. But let us consider the amount of success which has attended self-government on the small scale which we owe to the favour of Lord Ripon. It is now over twenty years since we received this tree of local self-government which was to be the panacea for all ills of the body-politic. But who now needs to be told of the nature of the fruits which this tree has actually produced? To get at the correct answer we have only to point to the farce which was recently enacted over the alleged irregularities of the Calcutta Municipality. Does anything now remain of the Dead Sea apple which Lord Ripon conferred on us as a gift? It has proved a veritable apple of discord to the country.

You Congress people, unconvinced by facts, would point to the expansion of the Legislative Council as one of the great successes you have achieved. You have got the right of electing some members for those Councils. A great right, indeed! By making this claim you simply make yourself ridiculous in the eyes of your opponents. You must indeed possess great influence in the Legislature: or how could measures like the Universities Act and the Official Secrets Act pass in the teeth of all the big speeches you made against them? Imitation mangoes made of clay, if put into the hands of a child, may at first sight deceive him into tasting it. But as soon as he comes to know the fraudulent nature of the thing, he throws it away from him in disgust. But it appears that you, Congress people, who boast of your learning and your wisdom, have been so

much charmed with the hollow mockery of self-government which is all you enjoy, that, though the practical working of it has brought you only harm, you still cannot make up your minds to give it up.

You are preparing to spend Rs. 30,000 in deputing delegates to England, when it will be stone they will get instead of the bread they ask for. Is this indicative of your good sense? You yourselves admit that English people take no interest in Indian questions. You expect to stir them out of this indifference by means of speechifying. But have you ever paused to consider the cause of this indifference to Indian concerns on the part of the English public? Is it intentional, or simply accidental? If you had the sense to see that all people in England are not so disinterested in this matter as you yourselves are, you would not surely have agreed to waste a vast sum like Rs. 30,000 drawn out of the life-blood of crores of misery-stricken Indians in making useless speeches in England.

It may be argued that this Rs. 30,000 will be well spent, as it will be the means indirectly of removing all the evils of which the country now complains—its poverty, its water-scarcity and what not. But is not this a very round-about, not to say problematic, way of getting the necessary relief? Would it not be better to learn to give up this dependence on others and proceed slowly and silently along the old lines sanctioned by our religion, in order to effect what we can, unaided by outside assistance? Give up the idea of attempting to reform India in a hurry. Give up luxurious habits and encourage the indigenous industries. Adhere to the faith of your fathers. Eschew the Congress, which would abolish caste. Remaining inside the pale of your caste and your religion, work so as to revivify the religious feeling among the Indians. You, Congress people, are gifted with learning, wisdom, wealth and influence. You can do much with the means at your disposal to ameliorate the lot of your countrymen without any outside assistance. When will you get rid of the superstitious idea that the possession of political privileges is the first condition of all worldly improvement? Is not the experience of all these years sufficient to convince you of the real nature of the "politics" you are allowed to take part in?

39. The *Mihir-o-Sudhakar* [Calcutta] of the 6th January publishes a poem according a welcome to the Sardar Inayatulla Khan of Kabul on the occasion of his recent visit to Calcutta.

MIHIR-O-SUDHAKAR,
Jan. 6th, 1905.

A poem in welcome of the Sardar Inayatulla Khan.

40. The *Daily Hitavadi* [Calcutta] of the 6th January is sorry that Lord Curzon refused to receive Sir Henry Cotton as President of the last Bombay Congress. His Excellency

DAILY HITAVADI,
Jan. 6th, 1905.

Lord Curzon and the Congress.

said that as during the last twenty years none of his predecessors had received the Congress proceedings from the hands of the President direct, he could not consistently allow a departure in the present case. Worthless arguments such as these from the mouth of His Excellency were unexpected. It is not perhaps known to His Excellency that Lord Dufferin accepted the Congress resolutions and proceedings from the hands of the President direct. Lord Dufferin also invited a large number of Congress delegates to Government House, conversed with them, and treated them with every consideration. It is a pity that Lord Curzon, though so wise and enlightened, failed to do what Lord Dufferin had done before him. If Lord Curzon had the same sympathy and love for the people, he could never have refused to receive the President of the Indian National Congress. He said he could not create a precedent which his successors might not desire to follow. May it not be asked whether the Official Secrets Act, the Universities Act, the destruction of Local Self-Government, the Bengal partition scheme, and His Excellency's undue partiality for the Eurasians are all supported by precedents? The truth is that Lord Curzon is willing to confer, and has already conferred, some small benefits upon the Indians and is desirous of seeing India tolerably well governed. But he can by no means tolerate the high aspirations of the Indians. Repression of high popular aspirations in India is his watchword, and he is unwilling therefore to give any encouragement to the Congress. Nevertheless, it is some satisfaction that His Excellency invited Sir Henry Cotton to Government House and entertained him hospitably.

41. The *Daily Hitavadi* [Calcutta] of the 7th January has the following:—

DAILY HITAVADI
Jan. 7th 1905.

Government titles and their significance.

Very few Bengalis have been the recipients of Government honours this year. Considering

that it is only the undeserving, who by betraying the country's interests please the officials, that are favoured with titles, the paucity of Bengalis in the Government honours list must be regarded as a welcome sign of the times, indicating that the number of traitors is gradually diminishing.

Formerly it was the custom to grant titles of distinction to persons who deserved them and to make a grant of *jagirs* along with the titles to enable the recipients to support their dignity. But now empty titles are given, and the fortunate individuals in many cases find it impossible to maintain their dignity; their titles become an insupportable burden to them. Their miseries do not end here. At railway stations, on steamers, in the midst of crowds, and in law courts, no distinction is made between titled individuals and other *kala adms*, and the titles give no immunity from humiliation at the hands of Europeans. Again, the titled men are regarded by District Magistrates as persons who are absolutely at their mercy, and who must pay all sorts of subscriptions, the demand for which is by no means infrequent. The titled man is in constant dread of losing his title and cannot afford to disoblige the District Magistrate. The insult which the titled man experiences at the hands of a common police sergeant is immeasurably more poignant than that felt by an ordinary man. This is the net gain which titles bring.

As on the one hand titles have lost their value by being bestowed upon the undeserving, so on the other hand persons who deserve much higher titles are in a manner insulted by the grant of inferior ones. The title of Rai Bahadur conferred upon Kumar Manmatha Nath Mitra, who is the grandson of Raja Digamber Mitra, and the same title bestowed on the late Babu Bankim Chandra Chatterji may be cited as instances. Government never grants titles to persons who are looked upon by the people as the most deserving among them. As, for instance, Mr. Dadabhai Naoroji has not yet received any title.

BHARAT MITRA,
Jan. 7th, 1905.

42. In giving a retrospect of the year 1904, the *Bharat Mitra* [Calcutta] of the 7th January says, among other things, that the last year was a remarkable one in the annals of Indian history. Exactly twenty years ago, a Viceroy left the Indian shores who had tried his best to ameliorate the fallen condition of the people, while last year another Viceroy left India whose whole policy was to throw back the country not twenty but fifty years. The first did not return, while the other has come back again.

BHARAT MITRA.

43. Referring to the rejection by the Boers of Lord Milner's proposal to introduce Local Self-Government in the Transvaal, under which twenty-five out of thirty-seven members were to be elected by the Boers, considering it to be a farce, the same paper remarks:—

If an assembly having the number of elected members double that nominated by Government is considered a farce, what of the privilege that our Government has given us. And still Government is displeased if a slight improvement is asked for.

HINDI BANGAVANI
Jan. 9th, 1905.

44. The *Hindi Bangavani* [Calcutta] of the 9th January says that a rumour had got currency some time ago that Lord Curzon was going to hold a Darbar in Calcutta of the Rajas and Chiefs of India. The rumour now seems to be founded on fact in a way, since several Rajas have come and gone and others are coming in. So there have been several individual Darbars instead of a collective one.

SANDHYA,
Jan. 11th, 1905.

45. The *Sandhya* [Calcutta] of the 11th January writes:—
A resolution has been passed by the last Indian National Congress to the effect that a deputation of Indians should be sent to England for the purpose of representing to the British public our grievances, wants and aspirations, the idea being that by taking that step we shall be able to compel the Government of India to give up its *aid* and to concede to us some voice in the administration of the country. But the British public will never take up our cause. None but a few generous-minded men and some faddists are on our side. The British public generally have a notion that we are steeped in ignorance and prejudice, that we are illiterate and half-civilised, and that we ill-treat our women. They believe that we are an inferior and backward race and, as such, no share in the administration can be granted to us. It is the custom with English travellers in India to write a history of their experiences, and the thing that is invariably to be met with in all such books on

"What do Englishmen take us for?"

travel is the remark that India is immersed in darkness, that the torch of English civilisation is trying to dispel that darkness, and that it will be long before any measure of self-government can be granted to the Indians. If this notion which prevails among Englishmen were rightly understood, we would never think of going to England for the purpose of winning over Englishmen by flattery.

As one passes along the streets of London one witnesses a very curious picture stuck to the walls of churches. A Hindu widow with her hair cut off is represented as grinding corn while her mother-in-law is thrashing her. This is the picture which the Christian missionaries exhibit for the purpose of collecting subscriptions in aid of the Mission funds. In the British Museum there is an earthen statue of a Brahman, with a fat belly, in the attitude of offering *puja* to the gods, which gives infinite amusement to English men and women. There is a secret which our England-retained countrymen do not choose to divulge: it is not easy for any Indian to preserve his self-respect intact in the streets of London. As soon as an Indian ventures out in the streets, the sound of "darkie," "darkie" greets his ears. All passers-by smile at him as if he was some curious animal, and his donning European costume and all that cannot save him from insult. Is it possible that people who entertain such a notion about us should ever condescend to treat us as equals? It is the Sanskrit-knowing *sahibs* who are our worst calumniators. They have proclaimed in Europe that our religion and our gods are all meaningless trash. If the Kols, Bhils and other savages were under our rule, what would we ourselves think if they were to demand equality with us? Let us realise this and we shall at once see how this agitation for equality offends Englishmen and makes them laugh at us. What a misfortune this! A new people suddenly raised from obscurity has the audacity to look down upon this ancient Hindu race and claim superiority over them! We must show that as Hindus we belong to a higher race. To this end we must agitate and devote our energies, and thus demonstrate that we hold sway over men's minds by our superior knowledge and civilisation. Which is the greater ruler, the ruler of the body or of the mind?

URIYA PAPERS.

46. The *Samvad Vahika* [Balasore] of the 22nd December states that cholera still prevails in Balasore town and that

SAMVAD VAHIKA,
Dec. 22nd, 1904.

Cholera in Balasore. the local Municipality is taking every precaution against it. A correspondent of the same paper reports that cholera prevails in Jellasore, Kamarda and other places in the Balasore district, and prays that, as a temporary measure, a doctor with necessary medicines and appliances be deputed to Kamarda or Bansdiha.

47. According to the same correspondent the fair-weather road from

SAMVAD VAHIKA.

Suggested repair of a road in Balasore.

Jellasore to Napo, Kamarda, Bansdiha and other important places in the Jellasore and Baliapal thanas of the Balasore district, is in a very bad state and requires immediate repair, and prays that the bridge across Naura khal be completed before the close of the current financial year and a second bridge be built across the Chitai river.

48. Another correspondent of the same paper writes to say that tigers

SAMVAD VAHIKA.

Tigers in the Nilgiri State.

are killing men and cattle in the passes of Dhrubasila, Mainsapata and Mitrapur in the Nilgiri State, and requests the Raja of that State, who is a distinguished *shikari*, to put a stop to the scourge at once. In connection with this tiger scare, some shrewd people are busy in collecting subscriptions from the ignorant and superstitious villagers with a view to worship *Barukhanda* and *Barama*, the deities who preside over the destinies of the man-eaters. It is proper that the Raja of Nilgiri should stop this illegal exaction.

49. The *Uriya and Navasamvad* [Balasore] of the 21st December thanks

URIYA AND
NAVASAMVAD,
Dec. 21st, 1904.

Cholera in Balasore town.

Mr. Egerton, the Magistrate, and Dr. Rigby, the Civil Surgeon, Balasore, for their exertions in preventing the spread of cholera in Balasore town.

URIYA AND
NAVASAMVAD.
Dec. 21st, 1904.

50. Continuing its articles on the rights, privileges and respectability of the domiciled Bengalis in Orissa, the same paper gives a short account of the educated and public-spirited members of that community in the Puri district, who distinguished themselves in the past, and observes that the sons and relatives of those public-spirited men, with requisite qualifications, should be treated in the same way as the natives of Orissa, when the question of the distribution of public patronage engages the attention of the authorities. The writer supports the claims of Babu Radhakrishna Bose, M.A., and hopes that he will be offered a post in the Provincial Civil Service.

URIYA AND
NAVASAMVAD.

51. Referring to the observation, made by a distinguished member of Parliament, that the 300 millions of the Indian people, when compared with the Russians, Frenchmen and Germans, who are either imprisoned or banished for high treason or sedition, stand out in bold relief as the peaceful and loyal subjects of His Majesty, the same paper regrets to point out that the Englishmen in India fail to appreciate these noble traits of the Indian character and fall foul of the Indians when the principles of equality and unity are pleaded in behalf of the latter.

URIYA AND
NAVASAMVAD.

52. Referring to the exertions of the Magistrate of Puri in raising funds for the construction of a leper asylum at Puri, the same paper requests the nobility and gentry of Orissa to contribute their mite towards the accomplishment of the benevolent and charitable undertaking, and agrees with its Puri correspondent in holding that the *maths* of Puri, that are bound to help the poor and needy, should be required to provision the inmates of the asylum in a decent manner.

GARJATBASINI,
Dec. 24th, 1904.

53. The *Garjatbasini* [Talcher] of the 24th December states that the *namkaran* ceremony of the son of the minor Raja of Dhenkanal was celebrated in that State with great *éclat* and that demonstrations of sympathy on the part of the people of that State were great.

GARJATBASINI.

54. The same paper is sorry to notice the death of Babu Arata Indrajit, the late mukhtar of Talcher, who is said to have been a good man and a friend of the poor. His death is a great loss to the poorer classes of people in Talcher, who will mourn his death for a long time to come.

GARJATBASINI.

55. The same paper says that the Industrial and Agricultural Exhibition at Angul was opened on the 16th December last by E. F. Growse, Esq., Commissioner of Orissa Division and Superintendent of the Tributary Mahals, Orissa, who was, on the whole, satisfied with the Exhibition and encouraged the people present by an instructive speech. A letter is published in its columns addressed to Mr. Growse by the members of the Sub-Committee, Angul Exhibition, praying that the Exhibition-house in Angul be converted into a permanent museum in the interests of the agricultural and industrial population of the Orissa Gurjats.

UTKALDIPKA.
Dec. 24th, 1904.

56. The *Utkaldipika* [Cuttack] of the 24th December states that the Raghunathpur ferry ghat on the Taldanda Canal is an important ghat, as many men, cattle, carts, &c., cross it every day for purposes of trade and other business; that the boat stationed there by the Canal Department is so small that it often sinks under the weight of the freight, and that it is a worn-out vessel without a deck, and that an Executive Engineer, who had been to the place on inspection, promised to construct a bridge over the canal at that place, though the promise has not yet been fulfilled. It is reported that the residents of the place approached the District Magistrate and the Divisional Commissioner with a representation on the subject, the result of which is not yet known. The writer contends that as the people suffer great inconvenience for want of a good boat at the ghat, it is proper that the authorities concerned should give orders, either for the maintenance of a serviceable boat or for the construction of a bridge over the canal at the place.

57. The same paper states that a branch Committee of the Utkal Union Conference was established in the estate of Kharsawan in the district of Singhbhum, and that Babu Jugat Kissors Tripathi, the manager of the estate, was elected as the President of the Committee. At a meeting of the Committee, attended by about 300 men, Mr. Kampal Misra, an agent of the Utkal Union Conference, explained the objects of the Conference in a lucid speech. It is hoped that Mr. Misra, who proceeded direct to Saraikella, an adjoining estate, has succeeded in establishing a branch Committee in that estate.

UTKALDIPIKA,
Dec. 24th, 1904.

58. Referring to the proceedings of the Hon'ble Mr. H. Savage, C.S.I., in the Balasore district in connection with the administration of the chaukidari-tax, the same paper points out that it is premature to pass any observations without studying the details of the scheme, which the Government has in contemplation and which has long been kept out of the public view.

UTKAL DIPIKA.

The proposed reform of the chaukidari system.

59. The *Uriya and Navasamvad* [Balasore] of the 28th December is glad to learn that Babu Lakshminarayan Das Mahapatra of Bhograi in Balasore is distributing medicines *gratis* to the sick and poor in that place, and that this act of the gentleman is looked upon by the residents of that place as a great blessing. The medicines are found in most cases to be effective.

URIYA AND
NAVASAMVAD,
Dec. 28th, 1904.

60. The same paper is informed that the Brahmin cooks of Cuttack met together in a meeting in that town and passed resolutions with a view to improve their status and prospects and to introduce certain reforms into their order.

URIYA AND
NAVASAMVAD.

A social agitation in Cuttack.

61. The same paper is sorry to learn that the Muhammadans in Puri killed a cow, thereby inflaming the minds of the Hindu residents, who are unable to tolerate such profane acts in that holy city.

URIYA AND
NAVASAMVAD.

The slaughter of a cow in Puri.

62. The *Samvad Vahika* [Balasore] of the 29th December is sorry to learn that several houses were burnt down in Nuaparhi in Remuna in the Balasore district, considerable loss of property being caused thereby.

SAMVAD VAHIKA.
Dec. 29th, 1904.

A fire.

63. The same paper thanks Mr. Egerton, the Chairman of the Balasore Municipality, for his energy and benevolence in treating the poor cholera patients of that town and hopes that the disease will soon disappear.

Cholera and the Chairman of the Balasore Municipality.

SAMVAD VAHIKA.

64. The same paper regrets to learn that the Superintendent of Tributary Mahals, Orissa, refused permission to the minor Raja of Pallahara to proceed to Bamra to attend the *upanayan* ceremony of the son of the Raja of the latter State, and observes that as Bamra is related to Pallahara, such permission should not have been withheld. Besides, this militates against the policy, inaugurated by the late Superintendent, of encouraging the Uriya princes to meet with one another as a means of education. The writer hopes that the Superintendent will reconsider his decision.

An act of the Superintendent, Tributary Mahals, Orissa.

SAMVAD VAHIKA.

65. The Athgarh correspondent of the same paper gives a short account of the inspection of that State by Mr. Growse, and states that the Superintendent was satisfied with what he saw and read.

Mr. Growse's inspection of the Athgarh State.

SAMVAD VAHIKA.

66. The *Utkaldipika* [Cuttack] of the 31st December publishes detailed accounts of the proceedings of the annual meeting of the Utkal Union Conference and of the meetings of other Associations more or less connected with it in its columns that are adorned with a portrait of Madan Mohan Singh Deb, the Raja of Dharacote and the President of the second meeting of the Conference. The meeting that was held at Idgapadia in Cuttack was attended by about 2,000 men, of whom about 300 were delegates. The report of the work of the Conference in 1904 was read by Babu Abhiram Bhanj, from which it appeared that 381 branch Committees were established in different parts of Orissa. The Chieftains of Mayurbhanj, Athgarh, Talcher, Pallahara, Nyagarh, Hindole, Nilgiri, Kanika, Madhupur, Sukinda, Raja Baikuntha

UTKALDIPIKA,
Dec. 31st, 1904.

Anniversary of the Utkal Union Conference and other Societies.

Nath De Bahadur of Balasore, the Rajkumars of Keonjhar, Manjusa, Gangpur, and Huma, and several other distinguished members of the Uriya nobility and gentry were present at the meeting. The proceedings were opened by the recitation of a Sanskrit hymn by the Raja of Athgarh, after which the President of the Reception Committee welcomed the delegates, guests, friends and visitors to the Conference *pandal*. The address of the President, which was delivered in Uriya, is published *in extenso*. The address explains the object of the Conference, which is neither political nor religious. It advises the natives of Orissa to be united and to work together so as to develop the agricultural and industrial resources of the country. It encourages the education of the masses, as also female education. It also suggests to extend the field of Uriya literature by editing old works on the one hand and by writing new works on the other. After this 21 resolutions were moved, seconded and passed unanimously. Copies of these resolutions are said to have been sent to Government by the Secretary of the Conference. The conference was held for two days. The anniversary meeting of the Utkal Young Men's Association was held in the Conference *pandal* on the third day and medals were distributed to the deserving students by the Maharaja of Mayurbhanj. Mr. Growse, the Commissioner of the Orissa Division, declared the exhibition, held in connection with the Conference, open the same day in an appropriate speech that was appreciated by the entire audience. He also distributed medals and prizes to those exhibitors whose exhibits in the last exhibition were pronounced deserving by a competent Committee of judges. The Conference was attended by a small number of European ladies and gentlemen. A sprinkling of Indian ladies in the Conference gathering was also visible, and it was pleasant to see Miss Rout, a Uriya lady, win an exhibition medal. Portraits of the President of the Conference and of the President of the Young Men's Association were distributed in great numbers and were received with eagerness and affection by the audience.

The anniversary of the Utkal Sahitya Samaj was celebrated with due *éclat* in the premises of the Cuttack Victoria School under the presidency of the Maharaja of Mayurbhanj, and a large number of Conference delegates were present there in the interests of Uriya literature.

UTKALDIPIKA.

67. The same paper states that the sky was clear and the cold was severe in the past week.

The weather.

URIYA AND
NAVASAMVAD.
Dec. 28th, 1904.

68. The *Uriya and Navasamvad* [Balasore] of the 28th December states that the weather was seasonable.

The weather.

UTKALDIPIKA,
Dec. 31st, 1904.

69. The *Utkaldipika* [Cuttack] of the 31st December states that fever and cold prevailed in a mild form in Cuttack town in the past week.

The health of Cuttack town.

URIYA AND
NAVASAMVAD,
Dec. 28th, 1904.

70. The *Uriya and Navasamvad* [Balasore] of the 28th December states that the general health of Balasore town is good.

The health of Balasore town.

NARAYAN CHANDRA BHATTACHARYYA,

Bengali Translator.

BENGALI TRANSLATOR'S OFFICE,

The 14th January 1905.

REPORT (PART II)

ON

NATIVE-OWNED ENGLISH NEWSPAPERS IN BENGAL

FOR THE

Week ending Saturday, 14th January 1905.

CONTENTS.

	PAGE.		PAGE.
I.—FOREIGN POLITICS.		g)—Railways and Communications, including Canals and Irrigation—	
Nil.		A public grievance	13
		The Bengal-Nagpur Railway office	ib.
		Railway grievance	14
II.—HOME ADMINISTRATION.		(h)—General—	
(a)—Police—		The partition of Bengal	14
The Tangail Police	11	The forthcoming Conference on the partition question	ib.
Indian gentlemen on the Red Road	ib.	The Provincial Civil Service	ib.
No Government Pleader to conduct police cases in the Ulubaria subdivision	ib.	Ditto ditto	15
A shooting accident in Monghyr	ib.	Ditto ditto	ib.
Wanton assault by a European	ib.	Separation of the Judicial and Executive functions	16
An extraordinary case of rioting in Patna	ib.	Stoppage of holidays in the Home Office	ib.
Dismissed after 21 years' service	12	Landlords' fees	ib.
A Sub-Inspector of Police in trouble	ib.	Mr. E. H. O. Walsh, Commissioner of Burdwan	ib.
Grievances of Cossipore milkmen	ib.	III.—LEGISLATION.	
(b)—Working of the Courts—		Nil.	
A dead man fined	12	IV.—NATIVE STATES.	
The Cantonment Magistrate, Umballa	13	Europeans in the Hyderabad State	17
The new Honorary Magistrates	ib.	V.—PROSPECTS OF THE CROPS AND CONDITION OF THE PEOPLE.	
(c)—Jails—		Apprehended scarcity in Madras	17
Nil.		VI.—MISCELLANEOUS.	
(d)—Education—		Sir William Wedderburn's last appeal	17
The last B. L. Examination	13	Lord Curzon and Sir Henry Cotton	18
(e)—Local Self-Government and Municipal Administration—		Sir A. Fraser and Sir H. Cotton	ib.
The open brickfields nuisance	13	Lord Curzon and the Conference of the Chambers of Commerce	ib.
(f)—Questions affecting the Land—		The proverbial gratitude of the Indian people	ib.
Nil.		A move in the right direction	19

THE 2 OF 1903

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II.—HOME ADMINISTRATION.

(a)—Police.

26. Since theft cases are being reported daily and the Police are doing absolutely nothing to check them, the

The Tangail Police.

AMRITA BAZAR
PATRIKA,
6th Jan. 1905.

Amrita Bazar Patrika's Tangail correspondent writes that the people justly entertain the belief that the subordinate police are in league with the robbers. The other night the house of Babu Syama Charan Das Gupta, Vice-Chairman of the municipality, was fired and immediately after the house of one of the Nazirs of the Civil Courts close by was broken into and robbed, the offenders carrying away a large sum of money. It is popularly believed that Syama Babu's house was set on fire to cause a stir and so facilitate operations in the Nazir's residence. The writer considers it high time that vigorous action on the part of the local authorities and Government was taken, as crime in the district is steadily increasing.

27. Referring to the reply given by Government to the question asked in Council regarding the exclusion of Indian gentlemen, dressed in their national costume, from walking or driving on the Red Road, the

Indian gentlemen on the Red Road.

BENGALUR,
8th Jan. 1905.

Bengalee suggests that the Government should publish the existing rules for the information of the Indian public, who appear to be quite ignorant of them. The journal writes that His Honour the Lieutenant-Governor is entirely mistaken if he thinks that respectable Indian gentlemen are at all satisfied with the present state of things.

28. The *Amrita Bazar Patrika's* Ulubaria correspondent observes that that there is, at present, no pleader who is appointed by Government to conduct police cases, so that this duty devolves on the Court Sub-Inspector.

No Government Pleader to conduct police cases in the Ulubaria sub-division.

AMRITA BAZAR
PATRIKA,
9th Jan. 1905

The difficulties of this officer, who is generally poorly acquainted with law, are thus very considerable, especially when an experienced pleader appears, for the opposite party. The writer urges that the Local Government should be approached with a view to the permanent appointment of a pleader in Ulubaria to conduct all police cases.

29. The *Amrita Bazar Patrika* gives an account of a shooting accident which occurred near Jamalpur in which a European was the culprit, and which resulted in the death

A shooting accident in Monghyr.

AMRITA BAZAR
PATRIKA,
10th Jan. 1905.

of a Sonthali woman and injuries to two other persons. A police inquiry was held and as the occurrence was reported to be "a pure accident," the Magistrate ordered the case to be "filed." Would the case have been "filed" if the victim had been a European and the culprit an Indian? These "pure accidents" are occurring too frequently and the Government should step in and take prohibitive measures. In the present instance, says the *Patrika*, the offender should have been put on his trial on a charge of culpable carelessness and punished accordingly. At any rate, he should have been permanently deprived of his fire-arms, as he has given indisputable proof of his utter incapacity to handle them.

30. The *Indian Empire* writes that a wanton case of assault is reported from Rangpur in which a European stands as the accused and a Muhammadan gentleman as the

Wanton assault by a European.

INDIAN EMPIRE,
10th Jan. 1905.

victim. The latter was travelling in a second-class carriage to Rangpur and had a fellow-passenger in the person of the European who did not at all relish the idea of travelling in the same compartment with a "nigger." He soon showed this in an active way, and just as the train was leaving Badarpur station, he pushed the Muhammadan gentleman, and on the latter enquiring the reason of the assault, was ejected from the train while it was in motion. Fortunately the man escaped bodily injury. On his reporting the matter to the local authorities, the European offender was arrested at Parbatipur, and is now at Rangpur pending his trial.

31. The *Amrita Bazar Patrika's* Patna correspondent reports a very extraordinary case of rioting which has recently been sent up by the local police. Some time ago a certain old man who was suffering from

An extraordinary case of rioting in Patna.

AMRITA BAZAR
PATRIKA,
11th Jan. 1905.

asthma and heart disease reported the occurrence of a riot to the nearest police-station and died about 10 hours after he had done so. In his complaint he said that some drunkards attacked and severely assaulted him the night

before. The police took up the matter and sent up three respectable Kayastha gentlemen. But, says the journal, the most curious part of the affair is that one of the supposed rioters is suffering from paralysis and is a confirmed invalid. Nevertheless he will have to undergo a criminal trial simply because the local police have thought fit to send him up as one of the offenders!

AMRITA BAZAR
PATRIKA,
12th Jan. 1905.

32. The *Amrita Bazar Patrika's* Bankipur correspondent writes that a constable has been dismissed after 21 years' service for using, it is alleged, disrespectful language towards a Eurasian gentleman under the following circumstances. On a certain night, while the Eurasian gentleman and his wife were driving without a light, the gentleman happened to use his whip on a *Pasi* who was in the way. The constable and two others saw the occurrence, and the former, in order to ascertain who the man in the cast was, turned his bull's-eye lantern on to him. This so irritated the gentleman that he abused the constable, who protested and was thereupon struck with the whip. The constable was next also reported to the District Superintendent of Police for making use of disrespectful language and was summarily dismissed without being heard in his own defence and notwithstanding the statements of the other witnesses. This order was upheld both by the District Magistrate and the Commissioner, and the unfortunate constable has thus been forced to appeal to the Lieutenant-Governor. The writer considers that the case requires a thorough sifting and hopes that Babu Saligram Singh will ask for an explanation of the matter at the next Council meeting.

BENGALUR,
13th Jan. 1905.

33. The *Bengalee's* Sylhet correspondent telegraphs that Sub-Inspector Halimulla with two constables, went to the Sherpore Dāk Bungalow to investigate a certain case. While there, the Sub-Inspector ordered the village chaulkidar Pourash Mahi to procure milk and other eatables but the latter returned saying that he could obtain nothing. This so enraged the Sub-Inspector that he ordered his constables to beat the man which they did so severely that he fell down senseless. He was removed to his village and his relatives, apprehending death, produced him before the Subdivisional Officer, South Sylhet, and his dying declaration was immediately recorded. The man was then removed to the hospital where he died shortly after he was admitted. The investigation has commenced and the result is awaited with great eagerness.

BENGALUR,
14th Jan. 1905.

34. A correspondent writing to the *Bengalee* complains that the milkmen residing within the jurisdiction of Cossipore Thana are in constant dread of Police oppression. In connection with a case now pending before the Deputy Magistrate of Sealdah, in which one Benode Ghose was charged with subjecting a cow to the *Phooka* process, a number of milkmen who had nothing whatsoever to do with the offence were terrorised by the police. While the writer recognises the justice of offenders being brought to book, he protests against the persecution of innocent people and asks Mr. Bignell to impress on the Cossipore Police the necessity of invariably acting according to law.

(b) Working of the Courts.

INDIAN EMPIRE,
10th Jan. 1905.

35. The *Indian Empire* draws the attention of the Lieutenant-Governor to the following case which resulted in the Joint Magistrate of Dinapore fining a dead man Rs. 500!

A dead man fined.

On the complaint of one Langat Singh, Porsid Narain Singh and three others were placed on their trial before the Deputy Magistrate of Dinapore on a charge of theft, and on the 1st September 1904, after the prosecution witnesses were heard, a charge under section 379, Indian Penal Code, was framed against the accused. In the meantime however, Mr. Reid, the Joint-Magistrate took up the case and before judgment was passed on the 25th October, a petition was submitted stating that Porsid had died on the 20th idem. Nevertheless the Magistrate convicted the deceased and sentenced him to pay a fine of Rs. 500!

"Is this the abominable way in which the criminal administration of the country is carried on?" Fortunately, however, the High Court have issued a rule setting aside the conviction and sentence, otherwise the widow and two daughters of Porsid would have been fleeced of Rs. 500 for no fault of theirs.

36. The *Bengalee* complains that the new Cantonment Magistrate of Umballa, who took over charge of his Office only a few weeks ago, has created quite a panic among his subordinates. During the short period, the head clerk who is an officer of 20 years' standing has been suspended, the Reader has been reported, the Patwari dismissed and the Overseer has resigned, presumably to avoid the ignominy of dismissal. It to be understood that the entire staf is inefficient or is the incompetency to be discovered in another quarter?

BENGALIEE,
12th Jan. 1905.

37. The *Bengalee* congratulates the Lieutenant-Governor on the appointment of Rai Jogesh Chunder Mitter, Bahadur, Rai Chunder Narain Singh, Bahadur and Khan Bahadur Dilawar Husain Ahmad as Honorary Presidency Magistrates, and has no doubt that they will prove an acquisition to the Honorary Bench in Calcutta.

BENGALIEE,
12th Jan. 1905

The new Honorary Magistrates. The journal however, hopes that these recent appointments mark a departure from the haphazard manner in which selections have hitherto been made, as some of the gentlemen who sit on the Honorary Bench, are lacking in not a few of the necessary qualifications and are indebted for their appointments to considerations other than fitness. The *Bengalee* earnestly hopes that this is the last of the old system.

(d)—Education.

38. The *Bengalee* writes that at the last B. L. examination a question in the 5th paper (Contract), to which no fewer than 8 marks were allotted, was set from a portion of the text-book which was not prescribed for that examination, and adds to the unfairness of the question-paper regarding which a complaint has already been made. The journal asks who is responsible for these vagaries, and earnestly commends the matter to the consideration of the President of the Faculty of Law.

BENGALIEE,
8th Jan. 1905.

(e)—Local Self-Government and Municipal Administration.

39. *Truth* (Howrah) writes that since the advent of the Bengal-Nagpur Railway, a large number of coolies have made the open brickfields their permanent residence and have erected huts without the permission of the Municipality. But what makes their presence a public nuisance is that they freely pollute the open land, and this, together with the stagnant condition of the large excavations, rank with vegetation, has made the place very unhealthy. Recently cases of cholera occurred in the coolie-shed along the Bherpara burning ghat road, and for the cause of this outbreak the Howrah Municipality have not far to go.

TRUTH,
9th Jan. 1904.

(g)—Railways and Communications, including Canals and Irrigation.

40. The *Amrita Bazar Patrika's* Uluberia correspondent writes that the people of Fuleswar and the adjoining villages keenly feel the want of a road leading to the Fuleswar railway station. Hitherto they have been using the railway embankment, but as the double line which was under construction will shortly be open for traffic, they will no longer be able to make it a thoroughfare. The writer hopes that the Bengal-Nagpur Railway Company will assist the public by opening up a pathway on their own land parallel to the embankment from the Bahirtopa to the Kalsapa railway bridge.

AMRITA BAZAR
PATRIKA,
9th Jan. 1905.

Referring to the alteration in the timing of the train service, the writer brings to the notice of the railway authorities that considerable inconvenience is felt owing to no up-passenger train running from Howrah to any station beyond Bowraah between 10-23 A.M. and 6 P.M., and no down passenger running through Uluberia to Howrah between 1-30 P.M. and 6 P.M. It is earnestly hoped that the necessary changes will be made to suit the public.

41. A correspondent writing to the *Bengalee*, draws the attention of the authorities to the grievances of the clerks in the office of the Superintendent of Transportation, Garden Reach, since the advent of the new Chief Clerk. The office hours which were from 10-30 to 4-30 have been extended, so that the change operates with great hardship considering that the majority of the clerks are residents of Calcutta. Another grievance which is complained

BENGALIEE,
10th Jan. 1905.

of is that there has been a continuous influx of the Chief Clerk's relatives into the office. The writer asks the Agent to look into the matter.

TELEGRAPH,
13th Jan. 1905.

42. A correspondent writing to the *Telegraph* draws the attention of the authorities of the Eastern Bengal State Railway to the following grievance of the passengers on

Railway grievance.

the Southern Section. The office train which starts from Diamond Harbour and should arrive at Baliaghata at 9 minutes to 10, very rarely does so in time, to the detriment of those clerks who cannot afford to pay their tram fare into town and are thus unavoidably late for work in their respective places of business. The writer hopes that the Traffic Superintendent will look into this complaint, which has hitherto been persistently ignored.

(h)—General.

AMRITA BAZAR
PATRIKA,
7th Jan. 1905.

43. The reasons urged for the division of Midnapore, writes the *Amrita Bazar Patrika*, are precisely those put forward for the partition of Bengal, so that the grounds for the

The partition of Bengal.

opposition of the people apply with equal force to both cases. If the Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal is really overwhelmed with work, the remedy lies not in dividing the Bengali nation and appointing two Lieutenant-Governors, but by converting the province into a presidency under a Governor in Council. Similarly, if Midnapore is too big a charge for one District Officer it should not be formed into two separate districts under two such officers, and the present cost of maintenance thereby doubled, but the existing staff should be strengthened.

In considering the question of the division of Midnapore, the Conference of Commissioners recently held in Darjeeling referred to a possible breakdown of the local authorities should the peace of the district be disturbed. Here the *Patrika* points out that within the last 30 years, there have only been two riots of a serious nature, viz., the Ghattal riot which was brought about by the indiscreet procedure of the Subdivisional Officer, in regard to the plague regulations which were afterwards condemned and rescinded, and the Nandigram riot, which was due to the folly of a police officer. Further, the local administration did not break down because the people were honest citizens who were driven to frenzy by the stupidity of the officials. Thus, if two riots in 30 years are deemed sufficient cause for the dismemberment of Midnapore and the appointment of two sets of officials, should not Calcutta be divided into two police districts under two separate Commissioners, because two serious riots occurred within a few years of each other?

No, it is not true that one Lieutenant-Governor cannot efficiently control the affairs of Bengal, because railways, telegraphs and, above all, the emasculation of the people have made the art of administration eminently easy. If, however, the work is overwhelming the remedy lies in the appointment of a Governor in Council and not in the appointment of a second Lieutenant-Governor with a hundred or more civilians to help him. Similarly, if one Magistrate cannot administer Midnapore give him an additional Subdivisional Officer and all his difficulties will disappear.

BENGALIEE,
8th Jan. 1905.

44. The *Bengalee* undeceives a certain local contemporary as to the *raison d'être* of the forthcoming Conference, which

The forthcoming Conference on the partition question.

is not to obtain, as is erroneously supposed, Sir Henry Cotton's views on the partition question, but to secure the rare advantage of his experience and advice as to what course of action should be pursued in the immediate future. Where can a champion so superb and capable as Sir Henry be found, and would it not have been inexcusable on the part of the Indians if they lost this golden opportunity? They can see clearly how chary the Government are of communicating any information to the public; but this reticence may either be attributable to a consciousness of its own weakness or to a determination to spring the revised scheme upon the people at a stage too advanced to admit of any agitation or criticism.

NEW INDIA,
7th Jan. 1905.

45. *New India* gathers from the Government Resolution on the subject of the recruitment of the Provincial Civil Service

The Provincial Civil Service.

that the two important considerations which would mainly determine the selection of candidates are their educational qualifications

as ascertained by University examinations and their representative character as belonging to the various districts or communities.

The journal, however, is not deceived by the plausibility of the Resolution referred to above, and considers that Government are merely repressing the more advanced communities under the cloak of trying to ameliorate the condition of the backward people of the province. Why, asks the journal, should it be impossible for the State to provide proper scope for all degrees of "intellectual and administrative aptitude and adaptability"? If Government appointments are an incentive for the more backward communities, similarly higher official appointments would also prove a stimulus for the further progress of the more advanced ones, and so there can be no such thing as "conflicting claims." It is indeed a good administrative principle to promote the interests of the backward classes, but it behoves the State to also further the interests of the more cultured classes.

It is contended, says *New India*, that the interests of the University have been upheld by this new system of recruitment. How? By making University degrees a *sine quâ non* in certain cases and by appointing three candidates yearly from among those nominated by the Syndicate? Truly, nowhere in the world do Universities stand for so little in manning the public services! Everywhere the Universities give to the country its administrative and public servants, but it is contrariwise in this official-ridden country!

45. The *Bengalee* has no hesitation in condemning the new method of recruitment for the Provincial Civil Service, as it

BENGALÉE,
11th Jan. 1906.

Ibid. will not only lead to the appointment of imperfectly educated men, but foster a spirit of canvassing for Government appointments, which is calculated to destroy all manliness and self-respect among the educated classes. The head-quarters of every district officer will be converted into active canvassing centres, and likes and dislikes, not equity, will control the distribution of State patronage.

The competitive system, it is said, has been abolished after a searching inquiry. Is it not fitting that the public should know something about this inquiry—the methods adopted and the nature of the evidence collected? It is true that the prospects of Sub-Deputy Magistrates are brighter under the new rules, but this could have been achieved without abolishing a well-established and well-thought-out system of recruitment and setting up an arbitrary one in its place? As matters stand, however, there is the imminent possibility of at least five non-graduates entering the service annually, and it cannot be contended that such an arrangement would be conducive to the efficiency of the service. Why, then, should it not be laid down as an indispensable condition that non-graduates will not be appointed either as Deputy or Sub-Deputy Collectors?

46. The *Indian Nation* considers that the new scheme for the recruitment of the Provincial Civil Service is inferior to the old

INDIAN NATION,
9th Jan. 1906.

Ibid. for the following reasons. The competitive system which has just been abolished was a surer test of the fitness of candidates than University examinations which have now been set up as a standard, for the simple reason that the former tested the knowledge of candidates in subjects which they would have to deal with when in the department itself. A young man may stand high in a University examination by reason of his proficiency in Mathematics or Physical Science, but that would be no criterion of his ability as a Deputy Magistrate! Granting, however, that the University test is a good one, why should the Syndicate nominate six of the most distinguished graduates of the year out of whom three will be selected by the Lieutenant-Governor? Given the University results, why cannot the Government make its own selections? If, however, the results of the University examinations are to form the basis of recruitment, let them be taken unqualified by a system of nomination whatsoever. Then, again, since the Lieutenant-Governor recognises that at least three appointments must be given to young men whose merit has been proved by examination, why should the special examination be abolished and preference be given to the University test? Lastly, as regards patronage. The people would much rather that it were exercised by the Lieutenant-Governor and his Secretaries than by Commissioners of Divisions. The higher the authority that distributes the patronage, the more confidence does it command,

and the *Nation*, knowing what its does of *mufassal* life and its secret influences, has no hesitation in saying that the Lieutenant-Governor and his Secretaries are better dispensers of State patronage than district officers.

HINDOO PATRIOT,
16th Jan. 1905.

48. In view of the fact that Lord Curzon has omitted to make any

Separation of the judicial and executive functions.

mention of it in the programme of business for the remaining term of his office, as shown in his reply to the address of the Bombay Corporation, the *Hindu Patriot* reverts to the question of the separation of the judicial and executive functions with a view to drawing the attention of Government to it. The journal strongly condemns the policy of combining the two functions in one individual and points out that such a radically defective system leads unavoidably to failure of justice. Such instances, of which the recent case of Emperor *versus* Rolt is but another example, are numerous, yet in spite of public scandal, the Government persistently refuse to pay any heed to the repeated representations of the people. The objection on account of financial considerations has been shown by Mr. R. C. Dutt to be utterly untenable.

BENGALIEE,
11th Jan. 1905.

49. The *Bengalee* writes that as a result of a petition submitted to Mr. Risley by the clerks of the Home Office, praying for an extension of the services of Mr. Milne, their Registrar, they have been deprived of all holidays

Stoppage of holidays in the Home Office.

for an indefinite period. While the journal recognises that it was distinctly a breach of official discipline for the clerks to have made any such request, it is of opinion that the punishment inflicted is far too severe, and considers that a warning would have been equally effective. Red-letter days are eagerly looked forward to by all Government servants, especially the hard-worked and ill-paid ones, and the *Bengalee* accordingly asks Mr. Risley to cancel his order as the clerks have learnt a lesson, and are not likely to repeat their mistake.

BENGALIEE,
11th Jan. 1905.

50. The *Bengalee* keenly regrets that Babu Ambika Charan Mazumdar's proposals that the landlords' fees which are left undrawn by the payees and held in deposit by the

Landlords' fees.

Government should be made over to District Boards for the improvement of the water-supply, was rejected at the last meeting of the Legislative Council. It appears from Mr. Earle's reply that these deposits become the property of Government by lapse of time and are then merged in Provincial revenues. The journal has grave doubts regarding the legality of this procedure, as a deposit is not subject to the operation of the law of limitation. Water-scarcity, however, is one of the most serious and stupendous problems that confront the Government and the people of the province, and if the sum of ten lakhs, which is now in deposit, were devoted towards mitigating the evil, it would certainly bring welcome relief to the inhabitants of the rural tracts. The *Bengalee* hopes that the Hon'ble Member will take an early opportunity of renewing his suggestion, which carries the unanimous approval of the people of the province.

AMRITA BASAR
PATRIKA,
12th Jan. 1905.

51. The *Amrita Bazar Patrika* eulogises Mr. F. H. C. Walsh, Commissioner of the Burdwan Division, as he has done much within his short tenure of office to earn the thanks of the people of the district, especially in

Mr. F. H. C. Walsh, Commissioner of Burdwan.

connection with his irrepressible subordinate, Mr. Carey.

It will be remembered that Mr. Carey's Christmas gift to the people of Chinsurah was a dictatorial notification telling them that they should be ashamed of their disinclination to open their purse-strings except in cases which brought their names directly before Government and calling upon them to make liberal contributions to the Lady Dufferin, Hospital Fund, which was for the benefit of their poorer countrymen. To lessen the popular pain which was felt at this uncalled-for notification, Mr. Walsh has expressed himself quite ashamed, and has apologised to the people on behalf of his subordinate. But how much longer do the Government intend to keep Mr. Carey at Hooghly to the annoyance of the people and the embarrassment of themselves? It looks very much as if he is going to be a permanent fixture in that district. Truly, how powerless the ruler of the Province appears to be when a subordinate of his is wayward and defiant!

IV.—NATIVE STATES.

52. From the Civil List issued by the Nizam's Government it will be seen, writes the *Amrita Bazar Patrika*, that no less than 28 Europeans are now serving that Government, and are drawing an aggregate salary of almost Rs. 30,000 *per mensem*. Of these three are getting more than Rs. 2,000, eight above Rs. 1,000, thirteen more than Rs. 500, and four below Rs. 500. It will thus be seen that nearly all the higher appointments have been monopolised by the ruling class, and this is not the case in Hyderabad only, but in almost all the big Native States and zamindaris. Now, if the children of the soil are ousted from their preserves in this manner, where are they to go?

AMRITA BAZAR
PATRIKA,
9th Jan. 1905.

V.—PROSPECTS OF THE CROPS AND CONDITION OF THE PEOPLE.

53. The *Bengalee* writes that owing to the failure of the north-east monsoon, serious apprehensions are entertained of a scarcity in certain districts of the Madras Presidency. What makes the situation still more grave is that District Officers, according to a correspondent of the *Madras Mail*, are extremely reluctant to represent to Government the real state of affairs in order to avoid the trouble and worry occasioned by the organisation of relief measures. Is it possible, asks the *Bengalee*, that men could shrink from performing their duty when the lives of thousands of their fellow creatures are at stake? A more hideous charge could not be brought against the members of the Indian Civil Service, and it is earnestly hoped that Lord Ampthill will organise relief measures as soon as necessary, and see that they are faithfully carried out.

BENGALIEE,
10th Jan. 1905.

VI.—MISCELLANEOUS.

54. While appreciating Sir William Wedderburn's efforts to advance the political interests of Indians, *New India* is of opinion that in his recent paper on "India's Golden opportunity," Sir William shows a sad lack of knowledge and appreciation of that growing school of political thought in the country which refuses utterly to trust the Government. The belief that England will of her own free will help the Indians out of their long-established Civil servitude and establish those free institutions of Government which she herself values so much was once cherished, but all hope has now been abandoned. Beyond all changes in the British Cabinet and the administrators in India, there are the permanent and powerful facts of selfish human nature and the established and permanent policy of the British Government.

NEW INDIA,
21st Dec. 1904.

What India really wants is a reform in the existing constitution of the State, so that the Indians will govern themselves as other nations do, follow the bent of their own national genius, work out their own political destiny, and take up their own legitimate place, as an ancient and civilised people, among the nations of the world. *New India* appeals to the British nation for this fundamental reform, but considers that there is no likelihood of the prayer ever being granted, considering the manner in which Sir William's efforts to obtain certain privileges for India have been received by his own compatriots.

Past deputations to England never achieved anything of real worth and value, and a fresh deputation next year may create some little feeling against the unionist party in British constituencies, but cannot obtain the grant of any fundamental rights to the Indian people.

Indeed, owing to Lord Curzon's popularity with men of both parties, it is very doubtful if Sir William can at all induce his own political associates to make room for any sort of Indian propagandist work during election time. In conclusion, the journal is of opinion, that it would be worse than folly to accept Sir William's proposal, and undertake such a costly enterprise at the present time.

INDIAN NATION,
9th Jan. 1905.

55. The *Indian Nation* is not prepared to condemn Lord Curzon's action in

Lord Curzon and Sir Henry Cotton.

refusing to receive from Sir Henry Cotton personally a copy of the resolutions passed at the recent session of the Indian National Congress, but at the same time, it cannot see its way to support the reasons given for declining to do so. If there was no occasion for any previous Viceroy to receive resolutions of the Congress from the hands of its President, that fact by itself is no reason for Lord Curzon to refuse to receive them when so offered. Besides the argument of precedent hardly comes with any force from so original a Viceroy. On the other hand, however, His Excellency could not be expected to commit himself, at a moment's notice, to any opinion on a body of resolutions dealing with a variety of subjects. If the resolutions were presented at an interview, a discussion of them or at any rate an expression of opinion regarding them, would naturally be expected; and a Viceroy may well be excused if he is unable so summarily to express an opinion on a formidable list of proposals. It was scarcely fair to demand so swift a verdict especially when there was no necessity for the demand. It is just as well, concludes the *Nation*, that His Excellency did nothing worse than merely refuse to receive the resolutions. For instance, he might have remarked that he was unable to agree with most of them, and this indeed would have been poor consolation to the Congress.

BENGALIAN,
10th Jan. 1905.

56. The *Bengalee* assures His Honour the Lieutenant-Governor that the

Sir A. Fraser and Sir H. Cotton.

marked attention he has shown Sir Henry Cotton will be received with the utmost satisfaction and pleasure throughout Bengal.

BENGALIAN,
10th Jan. 1905.

57. The *Bengalee* writes that Lord Curzon's curt refusal to receive

Lord Curzon and the Conference of the Chambers of Commerce.

Sir Henry Cotton as President of the Indian National Congress is in sad contrast with His Excellency's warm reception of the delegates of the Chambers of Commerce who were assembled in Calcutta in connection with certain questions affecting their interests. Thus, while the hand of courtesy was extended to the representatives of Commerce, the representatives of the people were shunned! A more open and flagrant piece of hostility to the just aspirations of the people could not have been possible.

Coming to His Excellency's speech, the journal finds that it is cast in the usual mould of complacency and self-adulation. His Excellency rejoices that it has been his good fortune to be the Head of a Government that has taken a "practical and far-reaching step" towards the extension of Indian commerce. From these words one would naturally infer that some great movement has been set on foot for the commercial education of the people. No, this rhetoric has been wasted on the creation of a new department on which a lot of public money will be spent and from which the benefits to be derived are at best speculative! His Excellency boasts of having created a Ministry of Commerce before Great Britain has found it necessary to provide herself with the same commodity. Now, if Great Britain with her world-wide commerce does not require a Ministry of Commerce and has been able to get on without it, what can possibly be said of India's need? Thus, in claiming to be ahead of England, Lord Curzon has himself brought forward the most convincing evidence against the creation of the new bureau!

AMRITA BASAR
PATRIKA,
12th Jan. 1905.

If India had a constitution, such irresponsible Government could never be possible.

58. The *Amrita Basar Patrika* writes that Sir Henry Cotton accurately

The proverbial gratitude of the Indian people.

portrayed the Indian character when he said that the people of India are overwhelming in their gratitude to anybody who showed them even a little kindness and sympathy, and it was thus that he accounted for his popularity in this country. Yet, says the journal, with such people, the rulers are on terms of the utmost estrangement, when a few kind words would make absolute slaves of them!

BENGALUR,
12th Jan. 1905.

59. The Indian Industrial Association, writes the *Bengalee*, is about to undertake an experiment to test the suitability of foreign hand-loom, and with this object it has resolved to establish a model weaving institution in the vicinity of Calcutta with the object of working Japanese, English and other hand-loom in order to find out which looms would be most profitable for Indian weavers and capitalists. The journal congratulates the Association upon its enterprise, and trusts that the result will be so satisfactory as to infuse hope into the drooping spirits of millions of weavers who are unemployed and in great distress.

OFFICE OF THE INSPR.-GENERAL
OF POLICE, L. P.

WRITERS' BUILDINGS,
The 14th January 1905.

F. C. DALY,
Asst. to the Insp.-General of Police, L.P.

REPORT
1912

When the first report was made to the committee on the subject of the proposed new building for the National Academy of Sciences, it was found that the existing building was not only inadequate in size but also in its location. It was therefore decided to build a new building on a site which was more centrally located and of a larger size. The new building was designed to be a permanent structure and to be capable of housing the entire membership of the Academy. It was also designed to be a place where the members could meet for the purpose of discussing the progress of their research and for the purpose of electing new members. The new building was completed in 1912 and has since been the headquarters of the Academy.

66. The National Academy of Sciences was organized in 1912. It is a non-profit organization which is composed of members who are elected by their peers. The members are chosen for their distinguished achievements in the field of science. The Academy's purpose is to promote the progress of science and to advise the government on matters of science and technology. The Academy has a long and distinguished history and has played a major role in the development of science in the United States.

67. The National Academy of Sciences has a number of committees and subcommittees which are responsible for the Academy's affairs. These committees are composed of members of the Academy who are elected to serve for a certain period of time. The committees are responsible for the Academy's budget, for the election of new members, and for the Academy's general policy. The committees also advise the Academy on matters of science and technology.

68. The National Academy of Sciences has a number of publications which are published by the Academy. These publications include the *Annals of the New York Academy of Sciences*, the *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences*, and the *Journal of the National Academy of Sciences*. These publications are important sources of information on the progress of science in the United States.